

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-01

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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCLR TPHY VE

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE REQUESTS FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
IN VENEZUELAN WATERS

REF: STATE 277644

1. REQUEST POST APPROACH GOV RE CLEARANCE WOODS HOLE
OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH VENEZUELAN WATERS ABOARD R/V ATLANTIS II.
SCHEDULE REMAINS AS PER REFTel: DEPART SAN JUAN PR
JANUARY 28, ENTERING GOV WATERS THIRD WEEK FEBRUARY.
PROBLEM ARISES FROM FACT WORK PLANNED OFF VENEZUELA WILL
NECESSITATE AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT BEING BROUGHT ABOARD
VESSEL DURING SAN JUAN CALL. IF GOV PERMISSION NOT
FORTHCOMING, CHIEF SCIENTIST, DR. BOWEN, WILL BE FORCED
TO MAKE CHANGES IN SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL PARTY IN ORDER
THAT VESSEL WILL BE PREPARED TO CONDUCT OTHER
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EXPERIMENTS ELSEWHERE DURING SAME TIME FRAME. INVITATION

FOR GOV PARTICIPANTS TO JOIN CRUISE STILL STANDS, BUT HEAVY DEMANDS ON SHIPTIME MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL PORT CALL. THUS THEY WOULD HAVE TO JOIN AND LEAVE VESSEL IN SAN JUAN. DECISION TIME FOR VESSEL'S COMMITMENT THEREFORE, WILL BE PRIOR TO DR. BOWEN'S JANUARY 25 FLIGHT TO SAN JUAN TO JOIN THE SHIP.

2. REALIZE GOV NOT LIKELY TO COMPLETE CLEARANCE PROCESS NEXT WEEK, BUT VITAL WE HAVE SOME SIGN FROM THEM (OR FAILING THAT, POST'S BEST GUESS) AS TO EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF REQUEST IN ORDER DR. BOWEN BE ABLE TO FINALIZE HIS PLANS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR SAN JUAN.

3. ADDITIONAL: DUKE MARINE LAB REPORTS THAT SHIP TIME, SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND MONEY NOW PRESENT IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO MAKE DESIRABLE A ONE WEEK EXTENSION OF DR. HYNES PROGRAM ABOARD R/V EASTWARD IN LAKE MARACAIBO. REQUEST POST ADVISE GOV OF THIS AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE CLEARANCE FOR EXTENDED PROGRAM NOW PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 1 TO 21. KISSINGER

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